

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-14 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JUNE 2 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

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1. COPYRIGHTED WASHINGTON POST REPORT THAT CARTER ADMINIS-
TRATION HAS EFFECTIVELY FROZEN SALT NEGOTIATIONS, PRECLUD-
ING POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT THIS SUMMER, BROUGHT ANGRY
DENIALS FROM RANKING OFFICIALS. HELEN THOMAS OF UNITED
PRESS INTERNATIONAL SAID PRESIDENT CARTER "MADE PERSONAL
STATEMENT IN OVAL OFFICE, CARRYING COPY OF WASHINGTON POST,
TO DENOUNCE REPORT. REPORTERS WERE HASTILY SUMMONED TO

HEAR HIM." CARTER SAID POST STORY WAS "TOTALLY INACCURATE" AND THAT POST REPORTERS, EVEN BEFORE STORY WAS PUBLISHED, WERE INFORMED THAT IT WAS "TOTALLY INACCURATE." POST EDITORS, PRESIDENT SAID, DECIDED TO PRINT STORY ANYHOW. STORY, PRESIDENT CONTINUED, "DAMAGES OUR COUNTRY, IT DAMAGES MY CREDIBILITY." HE SAID ADMINISTRATION'S UNCHANGED POLICY IS TO "PROCEED AGGRESSIVELY WITH SALT DISCUSSIONS, TO CONCLUDE TREATY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND WITHOUT DELAY BECAUSE OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS." PRESIDENT SAID FREEZE HAS NEVER BEEN DISCUSSED BY WARNKE, VANCE, OR HIMSELF, "THREE PEOPLE IN OUR GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR SALT DISCUSSIONS." LAST NIGHT WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN JODY POWELL

CALLED REPORT "ABSOLUTELY NOT TRUE" POWELL SAID "IF AND WHEN WE GET GOOD AGREEMENT WE'LL SIGN IT AND NOT DELAY IT FOR EXTRANEIOUS REASONS." WHITE HOUSE AIDE HAMILTON JORDAN, COMMENTING ON SAME REPORT LAST NIGHT, ASSERTED "THAT'S ABSURD." UPI QUOTED SECRETARY VANCE AS REPLYING "NO" WHEN ASKED IF TALKS WERE BEING FROZEN. IN COPY-RIGHTED STORY, POST STAFF WRITERS WALTER PINCUS AND ROBERT KAISER REPORTED THAT "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES SAID THAT NET EFFECT OF NEW ADMINISTRATION TACTICS FOR SALT IS TO REJECT ANY NEW SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR TIME BEING. 'WE'RE STUCK, WE'RE NOT DEMONSTRATING FLEXIBILITY,'" ONE OFFICIAL SAID. WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAID LAST NIGHT THAT SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO DID MAKE NEW PROPOSAL DURING TALKS LAST UNCLASSIFIED

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WEEK ON ONE OF OUTSTANDING SALT ISSUES, BUT IT WAS 'LESS THAN SATISFACTORY. WE TOLD THEM IT WAS NOT ENOUGH.' THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO MOST OF COMING FROM HERE ON OUT,' THIS WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAID. OFFICIAL CHARACTERIZED ADMINISTRATION SOURCES REPORTING FREEZE IN SALT TALKS AS PEOPLE WHO 'THINK WE ARE BEING TOO TOUGH.' ACCORDING TO OTHER RELIABLE SOURCES, ADMINISTRATION HAS CALCULATED THAT IT WOULD BE DOMESTIC POLITICAL MISTAKE TO SIGN SALT AGREEMENT IN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE, WITH PRESIDENT CARTER UNDER PRESSURE FROM HARD-LINE CRITICS AND IN CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION YEAR. ADMINISTRATION ALSO RECKONS THAT IT CAN BE USEFUL BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND WITH SOVIETS TO IMPLY STRONG DISPLEASURE WITH SOVIET AND CUBAN POLICIES IN AFRICA BY FREEZING SALT, THESE SOURCES SAID." KAISER AND PINCUS SAID THIS APPROACH IS "HOTLY DISPUTED" INSIDE GOVERNMENT, WITH SOURCES IN SEVERAL AGENCIES BLAMING BRZEZINSKI "FOR PERSUADING PRESIDENT TO ADOPT NEW TACTICS THAT COULD JEOPARDIZE NEW SALT AGREEMENT." UPI, IN DISPATCH FRIDAY MORNING, SAID AT STATE DEPARTMENT, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS STATED THAT VANCE AND GROMYKO ARE PLANNING TENTATIVELY TO MEET AGAIN IN LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY TO CONTINUE SALT DISCUSSIONS. OFFICIALS SAID EXACT TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT

VANCE-GROMYKO MEETING HAVE NOT BEEN SET. MEANTIME, BEN BRADLEE, EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF POST, ISSUED STATEMENT: "WITH GREATEST RESPECT WE STILL BELIEVE THAT OUR INFORMATION IS CORRECT...THAT RECENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY ADMINISTRATION HAVE HAD EFFECT OF FREEZING SALT NEGOTIATIONS IN SUCH WAY THAT AGREEMENT THIS SUMMER IS PRECLUDED."

2. RICHARD DUDMAN OF ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH SAID "HARD-LINE ELEMENTS IN SENATE" APPEAR TO BEDEMANDING ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE AS THEIR PRICE FOR SUPPORTING SALT TREATY. HE SAID WARNKE TOLD PRESS BREAKFAST LAST WEEK THAT HE WOULD RESIGN IF THAT WAS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN SENATE RATIFICATION. "IF YOU CAN FIND DEAL, I WILL TAKE IT," WARNKE REPORTEDLY SAID WHEN QUERIED ABOUT RUMORS THAT SOME UNCLASSIFIED

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PERSONS WERE ASKING FOR HIS RESIGNATION IN RETURN FOR SUPPORTING SALT AGREEMENT. DUDMAN SAID REPORTS HAD CIRCULATED IN WASHINGTON THAT SENATOR HENRY JACKSON WAS SEEKING WARNKE'S REMOVAL. "THESE REPORTS SEEM TO BE CORROBORATED BY PARAPHRASE OF STATEMENT SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY JACKSON'S CHIEF ARMS CONTROL ADVISER, RICHARD PERLE, IN AN APPEARANCE MAY 1 AT FLETCHER SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY...PERLE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, IN EFFECT: 'WHATEVER OUTCOME OF RATIFICATION DEBATE, IT IS CERTAIN THAT PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PERSONNEL CHANGES IN ACDA AND POSSIBLY IN SEGMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS. MR. WARNKE'S RESIGNATION IS LIKELY TO BE PART OF PRICE FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS.'" PERLE TOLD POST-DISPATCH THAT HE COULD NOT RECALL HIS EXACT WORDS AT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS OFF-RECORD SEMINAR ON SALT NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE COULD HAVE MADE SUCH STATEMENT. "I BELIEVE TREATY IS GOING TO BE DEFEATED," PERLE SAID. "I THINK IN AFTERMATH OF THAT DEFEAT THERE WILL BE PERSONNEL CHANGES. THAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. I BELIEVE THAT WARNKE IS FAR FROM IDEAL SPOKESMAN TO PERSUADE RELUCTANT SENATE TO RATIFY THIS TREATY."

3. WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT THAT DR. WILLIAM PERRY, PENTAGON'S RESEARCH CHIEF, SAID HE BELIEVES U.S. CRUISE MISSILES WILL BE ABLE TO PENETRATE ANY SOVIET AIR DEFENSE EVEN IF RUSSIANS SPEND "TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS" TO BUILD MASSIVE SHIELD. "I BELIEVE WE WILL BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN PENETRABILITY OF CRUISE MISSILES IN INDEFINITE FUTURE UNDER ANY SET OF DEFENSE RESPONSES I'M ABLE TO CONCEIVE OF." PERRY ESTIMATED IT WOULD TAKE SOVIETS AT LEAST SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS TO DEVELOP SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO CRUISE MISSILES. EVEN IF SOVIETS DEVELOPED MASSIVE DEFENSE SYSTEM, "WE WOULD TURN ON STEAM" IN UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPONSE AND PRODUCE SECOND-GENERATION CRUISE MISSILES
EQUIPPED WITH ELECTRONIC DEVICES TO JAM AND EVADE DEFENSIVE
WEAPONS. ACCORDING TO HIS ESTIMATE, AP SAID, U.S. WOULD
HAVE "CERTAINLY COUPLE OF YEARS" IN WHICH TO ADJUST AND
STAY AHEAD OF ANY SOVIET ADVANCES. CHRISTOPHER

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